

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Thomas N. Taylor GROUP: 2625
APPLICATION: 10/658,956 EXAMINER: D. Popovici
FILED: September 10, 2003 CONFIRMATION: 3513
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed under **37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**, before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under **§ 1.114**.

With respect to any item cited herewith directed to the prosecution history or Office Action of a co-pending US Patent Application, this information is being cited as required by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. See Dayco Products, Inc. v. Total Containment, Inc., 66 U.S.P.Q.2d 1801 (Fed. Cir. 2003) and McKesson Information Solutions, Inc. v. Bridge Medical, Inc., 487 F.3d 897 (Fed. Cir. 2007).

With respect to any item cited herewith directed to the prosecution history or Office Action of a foreign counterpart of the above-identified application or foreign counterpart of a US Patent Application related to the above-identified application, this information is being cited to meet the duties of disclosure set forth by 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

The Examiner is respectfully reminded that the placement of the Examiner's initials or a mark representing the Examiner's initialization of the citation adjacent to the citations listed in the attached Information Disclosure Statement is an affirmative indication that the Examiner has performed the Examiner's duties and has considered each initialed document in the same manner as other documents in the Office's search files are considered by the Examiner while conducting a search of the prior art in a proper field of search. See MPEP §609.05(b).

Moreover, those citations which have not been considered by the Examiner will have a line drawn through the entire citation and any citations which have been considered by the Examiner will have the Examiner's initials or a mark representing the Examiner's initialization of the citation adjacent thereto.

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER: 1056 002 301 0202

Lastly, the Examiner is reminded that Section 609.08 of the **MPEP** sets forth the proper process for electronically noting that a reference has been considered by the Examiner.

More specifically, Section 609.08 of the **MPEP** states:

ELECTRONIC ANNOTATION AND SIGNATURE

The electronic annotation, similar to hand written annotations, will cause the initials of the reviewing examiner to be applied to either: (A) the immediate left of each citation reviewed; or (B) the immediate left of the first of several consecutive citations and the left of the last of the consecutive citations reviewed with a line connecting the initials. Citations that have not been considered will be lined through.

The electronic signature will be in the form /John Q. Examiner/ at the bottom of the last sheet of citations of an IDS. The examiner may elect to electronically sign each sheet of citations considered.

As of October 1, 2007, examiners may use an alternative electronic signature method for IDS. Under the alternative electronic signature, examiners will no longer initial each reference citation considered, but will continue to strikethrough each citation not considered. Each page of reference citations will be stamped by the examiner with the phrase "All references considered except where lined through" along with the examiner's electronic initials, and the final page of reference citations will include the examiner's electronic signature.

Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to process the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement in strict accordance with the guidelines and process established by the US Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Nickerson", with a stylized, flowing script.

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